

LOVE, THINK, HONOR

Love Learning, Think Clearly, Honor the Lord Jesus Christ



May 2012

FROM THE OAKS
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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Have you ever been asked why you work so hard? Do you work hard?! Work ethic is held up as a very positive character trait in many cultures and it is certainly something the Bible promotes (“In all labor there is profit”- Pr 14:23a). But how hard is hard? By whose standard can we make this call? In the realm of education (which is an inherently religious pursuit) the Bible doesn’t leave a lot of wiggle room. In Mark 12:30 Jesus describes the **most important** commandment: “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The Oaks has been criticized by some for being too hard. In light of Mark 12:30 however, we might not be hard enough. We are seeking a balance for our children. Headmaster Williams illustrates this balance to new families as the centerline of a road we are traveling. We want to be in the middle of this road, avoiding the ditch of slothfulness on one side and the ditch of being too rigorous on the other. However, the perception of where we are in relation to this centerline, depends on our vantage point. If we are standing in the slothful ditch, that centerline looks way too rigorous. But the sad truth is that most of us are not just in the ditch, we are clear out in the field beyond the ditch! We are the product of an educational system that does not embrace hard work. Many modern students view education as a secular pursuit to be completed as quickly, and inexpensively, as possible – a game to be played in order to gain a diploma, that critical credential, for a ‘good’ job. In contrast, we want education to be a lifelong pursuit to glorify God. That is a task worthy of a little hard work.

ACADEMICS

Staff changes: Sarah Lee has been our dedicated Physical Education teacher for the last 4 years. Sarah will be handing the baton to Renee Williams next year. Renee has coached our volleyball team for the last two years and will be adding physical education classes to her work here at The Oaks. Liza Parmely has been a part of The Oaks from the very first day, sixteen years ago. Lon and Liza are one of our founding families and have graduated three children from The Oaks. As Liza sculpts the next chapter in her life, we welcome Ben Palpant as he adds Art class to his repertoire of English and Literature. Ben’s fondness and affinity for art make him a natural choice. Teri Culberson has worked with our third graders for the last 4 years and is now moving to Alaska to pursue the next chapter of her life. Plans for her replacement are underway. We thank God for all of your years of service to The Oaks. You will be missed.

First grade gets the short end of the stick in this “Academics” section. C’mon, how academic can they be in first grade? They’re not splitting atoms! Well as it turns out, they are doing much more. They are witnessing the splitting of living cells and the miracle of new life! Beccy Holland and her wide-eyed first graders were witnesses to the birth of baby chicks hatching in their classroom recently. How many times have you witnessed that in your life?

ENROLLMENT

Is it just about the numbers? As we were cutting and pasting this chart from last May’s newsletter (trade secret) it is striking to see God’s goodness played out in the numbers. We were at 252 last year at this time. As you can see from the current numbers, our enrollment is up (13%) even before we include the new Pre-K for next year. Praise God! We’re shooting for 300 this year so please keep spreading the word. Numbers are an obvious indica-

Pre-K 9	
Kindergarten 22	
1st Grade 27	7th Grade 24
2nd Grade 26	8th Grade 19
3rd Grade 25	9th Grade 20
4th Grade 14	10th Grade 27
5th Grade 22	11th Grade 16
6th Grade 23	12th Grade 20
Elementary 168	Secondary 126
School Total: 294	

tor of growth, but we don’t simply want bodies in seats. We are prayerfully seeking like-minded families who are dedicated to heeding the commands of scripture regarding education.

STUDENT LIFE

Civil War Re-enactment—We had a beautiful day atop our canopied, grassy knoll to witness our students re-enacting the battle of Stone’s River. One of our parent onlookers was asked by a co-worker why The Oaks places such emphasis on the Civil War? The very asking of this question is our answer! That the asker didn’t see this time period as the absolute most pivotal time in our country’s history, or have an appreciation for the staggering cost and conditions of these battles, is alarming, but not surprising. God’s word demonstrates that we should have an appreciation for our heritage lest we forget where we came from or even who we are. (Deut 32:7) Classical education is striving to return this appreciation to our culture.

Interesting fact learned: On the night before the Battle of Stones River (12/31/1862) the Union and Confederate armies were singing in their respective camps to boost morale. When they came to “Home Sweet Home,” both sides joined together in song. The next day they engaged in the battle that produced the highest percentage of casualties on both sides.

Senior Assembly 6/7-10:00-11:30pm. We may say this about many things at The Oaks, but, if there is only one event that you attend this year at The Oaks it should be our Senior Assembly. “But my child is only in 2nd grade!”, you say. Stephen Covey says, “Begin with the end in mind.” The Bible says we should be fruit testers. You will be blessed as you attend and see one of the most unvarnished glimpses of the fruit of The Oaks. Our seniors are giving their charge to the rest of the student body and they have the latitude to share whatever God has placed on their hearts. God never fails to use this event to knit our school community together. For a prospective parent, seasoned parent, or an onlooker, it is the best unscripted window into what we are doing, why we do it, and the results we are achieving. Please make plans to attend - you won’t be sorry.

Commencement 2012—Friday June 8th, 7:00pm in the Valley Fourth Memorial Church Sanctuary. If there is only one event you

attend this year at The Oaks, this should be it! This is a chance for our entire school family to celebrate and recognize the graduation of 14 students who have completed the trivium.

RESOURCES

Pride and Prejudice was a smash hit! Thank you to our students, staff, and the parents who helped to put on another first class production. While this is not a fundraiser for The Oaks it is a wonderful gift to the community and a way of exposing a broader audience to the benefits of a classical and Christian education.

As you begin to make your plans for the summer would you consider making a school year end contribution to The Oaks as a type of first fruits of the summer's bounty? As we complete the school year seeking to raise the final \$39,000 of our goal for the fiscal year, ending August 31st, we are faced with families trying to make the decision to attend The Oaks next year. Some are prospective families, some are families that have lost their jobs. Either way we would like to be able to offer help to these families who are working hard to provide the majority of the cost to be here, but need just a little assistance. Finishing this year strong will allow us to consider the possibility of increasing our assistance for next year. Thank You for your prayerful consideration. May God continue to bless you this summer!

ATHLETICS

Congratulations to our athletes participating in multiple state competitions recently:

Hailey Strandness ('12) and her brother **Jordan Strandness** ('15) both qualified to participate in the state tennis tournament. They both play for Lewis & Clark while they attend The Oaks.

Lydia Kim ('15) and **Eric Ansett** ('13) golf for Mead and Ferris respectively. Lydia placed in the top twenty and Eric in the top ten!

Nathan Weitz ('12) set a Shadle Park record and beat the old state record in the mile en route to his second place finish(4:05) to the top ranked runner in the country(4:04). He also placed second in the two-mile! To compete this highly in both events is very special indeed.

ALUMNI AND PARENTS

Here are the specific matriculations for the Class of 2013: Janson T. Card—Northwest Nazarene University; Gabriel D. Cheeley—Wheaton College; Makayla R. Coffey—Washington State University; Olivia K. DuPree—Seattle Pacific University; Sarah N. Gotzian—Biola University, Torrey Honors Institute; Evan C. Gray—Washington State University, Honors College; Joshua D. Korver—Washington State University; Jonathan C. Potter—Baylor University, Honors Program; Catherine G. Roy-Ting—Washington University in St. Louis; Carson E. Schlect—Washington State University; Regan H. Siglin—Washington State University, Honors College; Haley K. Strandness—Westmont University; Eric M. Walker—Hillsdale College; Nathan C. Weitz—Northern Arizona University. Congratulations to all of our soon to be graduates!

Travis Walker ('08) was recognized on the Whitworth website for his recent accomplishments in debate where he shared the national title with another freshman Whitworth student. Here are the details: <http://news.whitworth.edu/2012/04/two-whitworth-students-share-title-at.html>

ACCS Annual Conference—June 21-23 Dallas, TX. Parents are encouraged to attend this national conference for classical and Christian educators to gain insight and understanding of our model of education and also to draw encouragement. For more details on this worthy investment go to the ACCS website.

post scriptum...

It doesn't seem fair to extol the virtues of hard work as we approach the beginning of summer vacation. But isn't that what makes a rest so sweet? To know that you've done your best and then be able to rest, is one of life's pleasures that our Creator has given to us.

"Six days thou shalt work but on the seventh day thou shalt rest."

EX 34:21a(NKJV)

Enjoy the rest of the hard work this year!